



**MICHIGAN**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
P.O. Box 30014  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

**MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**Wednesday, April 11, 2018      10:30 a.m.      Room 327 House Office Building, Lansing**

Representative Barrett, Chair, called the meeting to order.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Representatives Barrett, Alexander, Lauwers, Howell, Albert, Calley, Frederick, Elder, Phelps, Sabo, Sneller, Cambensy.  
**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** None.

The Chair expressed sympathy for the passing of former Committee Clerk, Cath Petroskey, and ordered a moment of silence in her honor.

Representative Lauwers made a motion to adopt the minutes from the meeting held on March 21st, 2018. No objections being offered, the minutes were accepted as presented.

The Chair laid HB 5778 before the committee:

HB 5778 (Albert)      Agriculture; animals; large carnivore act; amend to allow for breeding of large carnivores in certain situations.

Representative Albert and Peter D'Arienzo, representing the John Ball Zoo, both testified in support of the bill. Questions and discussion followed.

Alan Smith, representing the Zoological Association of American, testified in support of the bill. Questions and discussion followed.

Monte Oswald, representing the Oswald Bear Ranch, testified on the bill. Questions and discussion followed.

Diane Thompson, representing the Binder Park Zoo, testified in support of the bill.

CarneyAnne Nasser, representing herself, testified in opposition to the bill. Questions and discussion followed.

Scott Carter, representing the Detroit Zoological Society, testified in opposition to the bill. Questions and discussion followed.

Beatrice M. Friedlander, representing Attorneys for Animals, submitted a card in opposition to the bill, but did not wish to speak.

Matt Blakley, representing the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, submitted a card with a neutral position on the bill.

The Chair called Mr. Blakley forward to answer further questions from the committee.

There being no additional business before the Committee, Chair Barrett declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 11:48 a.m.

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Representative Tom Barrett, Chair

Angie Lake, Committee Clerk (517) 373-5795